

**Amendments to the Claims:**

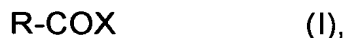
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Original) A process for the preparation of isoolefin copolymers in the presence of zirconium halides and/or hafnium halides, comprising the step of polymerizing monomers in the presence of organic acid halides.

2. (Original) A process according to Claim 1, wherein said organic acid halide corresponds to the general formula (I)



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-cycloalkyl and C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-cycloaryl, and X may be fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine.

3. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the concentration of the organic acid halide in the reaction medium is within the range of 1 to 500 ppm.

4. (Original) A process according to Claim 1, wherein said zirconium halide is ZrCl<sub>4</sub> and said hafnium halide is HfCl<sub>4</sub>.

5. (Original) A process according to Claim 1, wherein isobutene is copolymerized with isoprene and optionally further monomers.

6. (Original) A process according to Claim 1, wherein AlCl<sub>3</sub> or a catalyst system which is preparable from AlCl<sub>3</sub> is additionally utilized.

7. (Original) A mixture of zirconium halide and/or hafnium halide and organic acid halide corresponding to the general formula (I)



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-cycloalkyl and C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-cycloaryl, and X may be fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine.

8. (Original) A catalyst comprising a mixture of zirconium halide and/or hafnium halide and organic acid halide corresponding to the general formula (I)



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-cycloalkyl and C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-cycloaryl, and X may be fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine.

Claims 9-16. (Cancelled)